SUBSITUTE SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF THE INVENTION:

Nectarine Tree 'S 6816'

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:

None

PRIORITY CLAIM:

This application claims priority of U.S. Provisional patent application Ser. No. 60/404,217 filed August 15, 2002.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT:

None

LATIN NAME OF THE GENUS AND SPECIES OF THE PLANT CLAIMED:

Prunus persica L. Batsch.

VARIETY DENOMINATION:

'S 6816'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The new nectarine tree 'S 6816' was developed by the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) at Angers, France, as part of a controlled breeding program. 'S 6816' was asexually propagated by budding at Angers, France, and has been observed to remain true to type over successive asexually propagated generations.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

'S 6816' was selected for its suitability as a commercial nectarine tree cultivar. Fruit of the 'S 6816' cultivar matures in late July in central Washington state, and is notable for its aromatic and sweet yellow flesh. This variety is distinguishable over related variety 'S 6817' (U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/642,441) by its earlier maturity date and smaller and sweeter fruit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS:

FIG. 1 shows branches and blossoms of the new cultivar;

FIG. 2 shows a tree of the new cultivar;

FIG. 3 shows leaves of the new cultivar;

FIG. 4 shows a leaf, a stone, and a portion of a fruit of the new cultivar;

FIG. 5 shows fruit of the new cultivar; and

FIG. 6 shows a sectioned fruit of the new cultivar.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY:

The following is a detailed botanical description of 'S 6816,' a new and distinct nectarine tree, based on observations made during the 2004 growing season, of specimens planted at Parker, Washington, USA, in 1999. The described trees were grown on 'Lovell' (not patented) rootstock. All colors are described according to the Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart. It should be understood that the botanical and analytical characteristics described will vary somewhat depending upon cultural practices and climatic conditions, and can vary with location and season. Quantified measurements are expressed as an average of measurements taken from a number of individual plants of the new variety. The measurements of any individual plant, or any group of plants, of the new variety may vary from the stated average.

Tree

Size	Large, width 2.2 m wide, height 3.4 m
Vigor	Strong
Habit	Upright
Trunk	Diameter 31 cm at soil level; very rough; overcolor grey 201D; undercolor grey 175A; lenticels prominent, 0.3 to 0.5 cm, yellow 159A
Branches	Smooth, greyed red 181A, internode length 3.1 to 3.8 cm, lateral branch diameter 1.8 cm, length 46.2 cm (previous season growth)

Leaves

Young shoot - length of stipule	Medium

Size	Length 10.5 cm; 4.0 cm
Ratio length to width	Medium
Shape	Lanceolate, base rounded, apex acuminate, recurved, cross section concave
Color	Upper surface green 146A, lower surface green N144A, upper venation color green 154D
Texture	Smooth
Margin	Serrate to serrulate

Petiole

Size	Length 1.5 cm, diameter 0.2 cm
Color	Green 154D
Glands	Present, usually 2, reniform

Flowers

Bud	Length 0.9 to1.1 cm, round, smooth, hardy, red-purple 59A, tip pink 62A
Bud burst	March 18 at Parker, Washington
Bloom period	March 18 to April 7 at Parker, Washington
Flower type	Showy, fragrant, 1 to 4 per cluster
Petals	Quantity 5; length 1.8 to 2.1 cm, width 1.3 to 1.5 cm; margins ruffled, overlapping; shape obovate to rotund; color pink 69A
Sepals	Length 0.5 to 0.6 cm; width 0.4 to 0.5 cm; color red-purple

	59A
Flower size	Diameter 3.5 to 3.7 cm
Reproductive organs	Staymen white 155D, quantity 39, length 1.0 to 1.3 cm; anther length 0.5 cm, brown 199A; filament 0.9 to 1.2 cm; pistil 0.9 to 1.0 cm, smooth, yellow 3A
Pollen	Scarce, yellow 1A

Fruit

Size	Small, diameter 70 mm, height 4.0 cm
Shape (ventral view)	Broad oblate
Shape of pistil end	Weakly depressed
Symmetry	Symmetric
Prominence of suture	Weak
Depth of stalk cavity	Shallow, 0.5 cm
Width of stalk cavity	Broad, 2.8 cm
Skin	Color: ground color orange-red 34C, over color red-purple 59A; thin, smooth, tenacious
Pubescence	Absent
Firmness of flesh	Soft
Ground color of flesh	Yellow-orange 17C
Anthocyanin coloration directly under skin	Absent or very weakly expressed
Anthocyanin coloration of flesh	Absent or very weakly expressed
Anthocyanin coloration around stone	Weakly expressed

	Texture of flesh	Not fibrous
	Sweetness	Very sweet, 12° Brix
	Acidity	Low
Stone		
	Size	Small, diameter 3.0 cm
	Shape in lateral view	Oblate
	Color	Red-purple 59C
	Relief of surface	Small pits, ridges
	Tendency of splitting at peak harvest	Absent or very low
	Adherence to flesh	Absent (freestone)
Time of maturity for consumption		Early, late July in Parker, Washington
Tendency to preharvest drop		Absent or very weak
Resistance to diseases and pests		None observed
Heat and cold tolerance		Tolerant in area tested (USDA Zone 6)